

# VIETNAM COURIER

Information Weekly E.O. 146 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi - Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

July 22  
1968  
No 174  
5th Year

SUPPLEMENT

## MEMORANDUM

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 14TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE  
1954 GENEVA AGREEMENTS ON VIET NAM



President HO CHI MINH

## DIEN BIEN PHU — GENEVA

### A LONG ROAD...

**D**IEN BIEN PHU. Geneva. Fourteen years have elapsed. The Vietnamese people can, not without legitimate pride, look back upon the road they have travelled.

Hardly had a decisive, war mortal, blow been dealt to old colonialism when they had to face an even more ferocious, perfidious, and clearly more powerful neo-colonialism. For 14 years, the Vietnamese people have not failed in their task: to all American designs and attempts, they have opposed stubborn and

valiant resistance. Yankee neo-colonialism has brought into play all kinds of skills, stratagems, weapons, including these prohibited by international law, sent to Viet Nam its best generals, politicians, counter-insurgency and repression experts; all kinds of modern techniques, and the most barbarous methods and means have been used—all to no avail.

In order to fully appreciate the Vietnamese people's victories, one must go back to the dark days of the first years under the Dien Bien regime.

(Continued page 2)

## South Viet Nam

- ★ In 30 Minutes, the P.L.A.F. Put out of Action 200 G.I.s, Destroyed or Damaged 22 Aircraft, 25 Armoured Cars and 7 Cannons at Dau Tieng.
- ★ Traung Bang Region : 720 Enemy Soldiers Killed or Wounded, 37 Vietnamese Killed, About 100 Firearms Seized.
- ★ 1,150 Enemy Troops Put out of Action North of Quang Tri Province and West of Thua Thien Province.
- ★ 81 Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged after 3 P.L.A.F. Shells of Da Nang and Nuoc Man Airfields.

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## PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S APPEAL

ON THE OCCASION OF JULY 20

Fellow countrymen and fighters throughout the country!

Fourteen years ago, following the great Dien Bien Phu victory, the Geneva Agreements were signed which recognized the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Vietnamese people. In July 1954, our people would have had General elections, and from that date our country would have been completely independent, at peace and reunified, and the North and the South reunited under the same roof, had it not been for the brazen sabotage of the accords by the bellicose U.S. imperialists, who broke their own promise. They immediately created traitorous puppet regimes and launched a war of aggression in the southern part of our country. But they have met with an extremely heroic resistance from our compatriots and fighters in the South and have been suffering heavy failures. In an attempt to get out of their passive position and pre-empt in South Viet Nam, they have been frenziedly bombing and shelling North Viet Nam for more than three years now. They have been undermining the independence, peace and neutrality of Laos and continually threatening and provoking the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The aggressive war waged by the United States in our country is one of the most brutal in human history. The U.S. aggressors have been nurturing the hope of subduing our people with an army more than one million strong, including over 500,000 U.S. troops and with the power of modern weapons. The harsh reality of life has turned out to be a dire disappointment for them. Our valiant southern compatriots and fighters, the heroic Vietnamese people as a whole, have resolutely stood up, millions like one, and have been fighting with almost incredible heroism, frustrating all enemy military and political schemes, and winning greater and greater victories.

Since early spring 1968, the war of resistance in South Viet Nam has been wound up to a new phase: our southern compatriots and fighters have staged waves of widespread attacks and simultaneous uprisings in the towns and cities, which have been highlighted by many glorious exploits, and have thrown into a turmoil the United States and produced a state of fire continents. The founding of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces was a great success creditable to the line of nation wide unity in the resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation which has led a stronger light on the nature of the U.S. and its lackey aggressors and traitors, and further increased their isolation. In North Viet Nam, more than 3,000 aircraft of the U.S. aggressors have been shot down. Thus "both the South and the North are fighting well." The U.S. imperialists are suffering ever bigger setbacks and will not escape complete failure.

But with the U.S. aggressors, what is bred in the bone will come out in the flesh. In South Viet Nam, they continue to intensify the war, with utter savage attacks on the towns and cities, and devastating raids on many rural areas; at the same time, they carry on frantic bombardments against the southern provinces of North Viet Nam.

At the Paris conversations, in face of our serious attitude and just stand, they keep demanding "reciprocity" in a shameful and completely unreasonable manner. Obviously the U.S. imperialists still are unwilling to give up their criminal war of aggression, and still want to hold on to their position, in an attempt to prolong the partition of our country.

In face of this grave situation, the people throughout our country must persevere with

stiffer determination to, and push up, their war of resistance against the U.S. aggressors, for national salvation. For independence and freedom, our 31 million fellow-countrymen will resolutely overcome all hardships and make sacrifices, with their minds made up to fight and to win. The U.S. aggressors are being driven into a tighter corner, are the end of their tether. The armed forces and the initiative and are keeping up the offensive, and the harder they fight, the bigger their victories.

Our southern compatriots and fighters, closely and broadly united under the glorious banner of the National Front for Liberation, will certainly fight with still more zeal and win yet more considerable successes.

Our compatriots and fighters in the North must unceasingly increase their vigilance, fight bravely, step up their emulation in production, defeat the war of destruction by the enemy, stand ready to thwart all his new escalations, and give wholehearted assistance to the kindred South, thus fulfilling the obligations of the great rear towards the great front.

South and North of one mind, our entire people are resolved to fight, resolutely to defeat the U.S. aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North, and proceed towards the peaceful reunification of the country.

Our people cherish peace, but only in real independence and freedom can genuine peace be established. Our country is very just and clear: when the U.S. imperialists put an end to their war of aggression against our country, cease their bombings and shellings of North Viet Nam, withdraw all the U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and leave our people to settle themselves their internal affairs, peace will be restored immediately. That is the aspiration of our people, and also the desire of progressive people in the United States, and of peace- and justice-loving people in the world. The only way to restore peace is to send home all the troops of the United States and of its satellites! Viet Nam to the Vietnamese!

Dear fellow-countrymen and fighters,

**W**E, Vietnamese people, are fighting the greatest war of resistance in our history. For the independence and freedom of our Motherland, in the interests of the socialist camp, the interests of the whole progressive mankind, we are fighting and defeating the vicious foe in the world. Our homeland is the scene of an all-out fight between justice and injustice, between civilization and brutality. The peoples of the fraternal socialist countries and progressive people all over the world are daily following the developments in Viet Nam, with deep admiration for our compatriots and fighters. On behalf of the Vietnamese people, I take this opportunity to express sincere thanks to the fraternal socialist countries and to all our friends in the five continents, for their wholehearted assistance to our people in their sacred resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. Our people are very heroic. Our line is very sound. We have justice on our side. We have a staunch, a strong, resolute fight and to win. We have the invincible might of nation wide unity and the sympathy and support of the whole progressive mankind.

The U.S. imperialists will surely be defeated!

Our people will surely be victorious! Fellow-countrymen and fighters throughout the country, march forward with more might!

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# Viet Nam and the World at Large

## FOR VIET NAM CODEMNS U.S. AGGRESSION

THE "World Conference of Lawyers for Viet Nam" opened in Grenoble (France) on July 7. It was attended by nearly 150 lawyers, professors and representatives of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (I.A.D.L.) and 40 lawyers' associations from 40 countries. Also present were the delegation of the D.R.V.N. lawyers headed by Tran Cong Tuong, Secretary-General of the Viet Nam Lawyers' Association and member of the Secretariat of the I.A.D.L., and the delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation headed by Le Quang Chan, member of the Front's Central Committee.

Participating in the Conference were many famous lawyers from various socialist countries, Asian, African, West European and North American countries and the United States, among them: Smiernow, President of the Higher Court, U.S.S.R.; Mallet, Dean of the Faculty of Law at Grenoble; Noriman, President of Paris Court, General Secretary of I.A.D.L.; Pierre Lavigne, professor at the Faculty of Law and Economics, Paris; Henri Kolin, State Attorney, Belgium; Fritz, British lawyer; Khirina Menon, ex-Minister of National Defence, India; B. Ledyet, Public Prosecutor of the Higher Court of Bamako (Mali); Richard Falk, professor at Princeton University, U.S.A.; Charles Chaumont, professor at Nancy University, France.

In his opening speech, J. Mallet, Dean of the Grenoble Faculty, pointed out that the aim of the Conference was to express solidarity with the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression. The conference was to discuss problems related to U.S. aggression in Viet Nam, namely: U.S. aggression - a violation of international law; the struggle of the Vietnamese people in defence of their fundamental rights; the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people; the role of the N.F.L. Political Program; the means and methods of war applied by the U.S. in Viet Nam which challenge international law; the legal basis for the refusal to participate in the U.S. aggressive war.

At a plenary session of the Conference, Professor R. Falk

who had recently visited Viet Nam for an investigation of the legal aspects of the U.S. aggressive war, said that he had seen the positive aspect of the resistance of the Vietnamese people against the U.S. aggressors and the necessity for the American people to oppose this war.

He stressed that this war was an unjust and immoral war conducted against a people who have never had any ill feeling toward the United States nor taken any action against her interests.

Prof. Falk confirmed the atrocity of the U.S. air war in Viet Nam despite the announcement of a "limited bombing" by the Johnson administration. He stressed that from the legal viewpoint the U.S. government had committed a crime in order to believe that there was no war of aggression in Viet Nam. In fact, it is a neo-colonialist war of the U.S. and a righteous war of resistance waged by the Vietnamese people.

At the same plenary session, Belgian lawyer J. Smiernow deemed it necessary to protest energetically against U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam, solve the legal problem of this war and the violation of the U.S. of the prohibition of weapons such as napalm, toxic chemicals, bacteriological and chemical weapons against the D.R.V.N. which is a crime of genocide committed by the Americans.

Japanese professor Hasegawa recalled the history of the struggle for independence and freedom put up by the Vietnamese people for half a century. He expressed the opinion that justice-loving people that just-justice-loving people was to express solidarity with the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression.

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THE Conference holds that such a war is an aggression, a crime against the independence and existence of the Vietnamese people, and is entitled to act in self-defence.

"The Conference solemnly declares that the only means to restore the respect of international law is recognition by the world and first by the U.S. aggressor, of the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people.

"The Conference considers that the official talks, begun after President Johnson's speech on March 31, 1968, could not be based on some compromise affecting those fundamental rights.

"Especially, the Conference holds that the aggressor cannot put forth 'reciprocity' conditions to the cessation of his aggression against the D.R.V.N. In the respect, it is a stop-go measure as the U.S. is facing a growing serious shortage of manpower.

"Recognition of the N.F.L. as genuine representatives of the South Viet Nam people in their struggle for liberation.

"Recognition of the great importance of the emergence of the Alliance of the People's Democratic and Peace Forces.

"Withdrawal of all troops from South Viet Nam.

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# THAT TROOPS, America's Worst Mercenaries

ACCORDING to Western agencies, the U.S. imperialists have decided to throw an additional 5,200 Thai mercenary troops into the South Viet Nam battlefield. Thus, the total of Thai soldiers serving in the South Viet Nam would now be nearly 8,000.

As a matter of fact Thai troops are America's worst mercenaries in the South Viet Nam battlefield. As the U.S. aggressors in South Viet Nam would now be nearly 8,000.

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# CHEMICALS AND B52'S USE AGAINST SOUTH VIET NAM PEOPLE

WHILE in Paris, the American delegate tried to shift the blame for destroying Saigon and killing its people on to the South Viet Nam Liberation fighters. A U.S. News and World Report correspondent wrote on July 1, 1968:

"The fact is: most of the damage inflicted on Saigon and suburbs actually has been done by South Vietnamese tanks and guns, U.S. bombers and rocket-armed helicopters." The Johnson administration cannot hush up or distort the truth and its crimes do not stop there.

The Guardian remarked on June 25, 1968, that the U.S. has been stepping up the use of toxic chemicals, already condemned by the world's peoples, and that from July 1968 to July 1969 10 million gallons (45 million litres) would be used, or 1.5 times the quantity sprayed in 1967.

Reader correspondent Holland wrote disclosed on July 6 that in the first nine months of 1967 a total of 100,000 in the cacodylic acid - stronger than any weedkiller had destroyed 950,000 acres (nearly 400,000 hectares) of cropland.

Parallels with toxic chemicals, poison gases have been used by the Yankees against the South Viet Nam people. According to a communiqué dated July 15 of the Committee to Denounce U.S. War Crimes in South Viet Nam, these chemicals and gases were recently sprayed in Hue, Saigon and other towns. Most barbarous was the spraying

on July 7 of 5 tons of toxic chemicals on the inlet of Binh Hung of Binh Thanh village, Cao Lanh district, Kien Phong province, 120 km southwest of Saigon, before the bombing and rocketing of armed helicopters and war vessels. In its July 10 statement, the South Viet Nam Liberation Peasants' Association recalled that toxic chemicals had been used 26 times against many districts in Ben Tre province, devastating nearly 100,000 hectares of cropland and seriously poisoning hundreds of women and children. The White House and the Pentagon claim that they have used only "weedkiller" and "tear gas" but on June 18, 1968, British M.P. Stephen Rose, a biographer of London University, reported before the House of Commons that he was in possession of convincing proofs that these products had killed at least 350 people in Viet Nam. If they were thrown in the form of hand grenades into a narrow space, he said, the concentration would increase and rapidly reach deadly proportions.

Products were in fact hurled into undergrounds and huts in Viet Nam. S. Rose concluded that this was a sample of the so-called non-lethal weapons used as means of death.

The die-hard aggressive policy and the barbarity of the U.S. war in Viet Nam have also been used by the U.S. B-52 strategic bombers. In May 1968, these planes flew 1,800 bombing missions over South Viet Nam. Around Saigon, they dropped tens of

thousands of bombs, sometimes as near as 12 km from the centre of the city. AP district, Kien Phong province, 120 km southwest of Saigon, before the bombing and rocketing of armed helicopters and war vessels. In its July 10 statement, the South Viet Nam Liberation Peasants' Association recalled that toxic chemicals had been used 26 times against many districts in Ben Tre province, devastating nearly 100,000 hectares of cropland and seriously poisoning hundreds of women and children. The White House and the Pentagon claim that they have used only "weedkiller" and "tear gas" but on June 18, 1968, British M.P. Stephen Rose, a biographer of London University, reported before the House of Commons that he was in possession of convincing proofs that these products had killed at least 350 people in Viet Nam. If they were thrown in the form of hand grenades into a narrow space, he said, the concentration would increase and rapidly reach deadly proportions.

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# MILITARY OPERATIONS

(Continued from page 8)

The fuel depot at Nha Be, 13 km south of the city of Saigon, was pounded by P.L.A.F. guns on the night of July 3. Big tanks of petrol, a power station and a warehouse of chemical products were gutted by the flames.

In Trang Bang, 15 km northwest of Saigon, the P.L.A.F. inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in many battles given between June 28 and July 3.

On the morning of June 28, they wiped out 1 company at Gia Loc, 10 km north

American casualties, together with 100 tons of munitions, were destroyed and a chopper downed, and the other near Trang Bang which put out of action 100 enemy soldiers.

The total losses of the enemy in Trang Bang in that period ran to 720 men killed or wounded, 50 vehicles destroyed, 17 vehicles were destroyed and 17 firearms captured by the P.L.A.F.

The following day, 3 American battalions were intercepted and destroyed. The P.L.A.F. raised shells on the American forces in their night bivouacs near Trang Bang.

When, after mutual engagements in the area, the enemy decided to withdraw on July 3, he received two heavy blows, one on Highway No 1 causing 180

of Trang Bang, and in the afternoon put out of action 1 American company together with 50 vehicles destroyed, 17 vehicles were destroyed and 17 firearms captured by the P.L.A.F.

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# Joen's "17th Parallel" Film Wins Prize

THE film 17th Parallel by Dutch film-director Joris Ivens depicting the gallant struggle of the Vietnamese people against U.S. aggression is the first prize winner of the French National Centre of Cinematography. 17th Parallel is widely shown in many countries.

The Vietnamese people, together with the world's peoples, have also seen the American people's courageous actions against the U.S. war in Viet Nam. These continue the fine tra-

\* See Viet Nam Courier, No 173

# ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

## Military Operations

### DONG HA AND HIGHWAY No 9

ON July 2, two U.S. battalions were intercepted at Lai An, 11 km north of Dong Ha; about 100 Marines killed or wounded. The survivors fled under an adverse artillery fire; 158 Yankees put out of action and 4 M-41 tanks burnt.

On July 9, 100 U.S. Marines were killed or wounded and 8 tanks destroyed at 2 km from Con Tien base, near the demarcation line.

On July 11, a platoon of U.S. Marines and 100 G.I.'s were put out of action in several engagements west of Highway No 9, between Tan Lam and Rao Quan.

On July 13, 2 tanks were destroyed and 1 U.S. Marine company wiped out on its way to Rao Quan from Hill 710 which defended the western flank of an outpost built near Ca Lu, a substitute for Khe Sanh base just evacuated.

To sum up, in Dong Ha region and along Highway No 9, from July 7 to 13, at least 500 Marines were killed or wounded and 7 M-41 tanks destroyed or burnt.

### HUE AREA

FROM July 3 to 8, the guerrillas and local troops of the highland west of Thua Thien province (with Hue as province capital) hammered at the enemy forces operating in the locality.

South of Thua Thien, the U.S. and puppet troops took nearly 200 casualties and had 2 choppers downed in many engagements with the P.L.A.F. In the first ten days of July, the people's forces north of the province put out of action 500 enemy soldiers, downed 2 choppers and destroyed or damaged 7 heavy guns, thus bringing

the total number of enemy casualties to 700 including 400 American.

### DA NANG AND CENTRAL TRUNG BO

ON the night of June 26 and 28, Da Nang airbase and Nuoc Man helicopter park (some kilometers from Da Nang) were the targets of violent bombardments by the P.L.A.F.

The latest news released by Gai Phong Press Agency listed 81 U.S. aircraft destroyed or damaged, 102 G.I.s killed or wounded and many depots burnt. The same source disclosed that 52 choppers had been hit at Nuoc Man on June 26 and 28, and 29 fighter planes at Da Nang airbase on June 28. In Quang Ngai province, in the counterattacks of the P.L.A.F. in the districts of Ta Nghia and Nghia Hanh against 6 battalions of U.S. Brigades 11 and 106 and puppet Regiments 4 and 6, the enemy suffered 79 casualties (including 200 American) and 6 choppers downed.

In Binh Dinh province, a column of South Korean mercenaries was assaulted on July 12 and in inflicted heavy casualties among whom the lieutenant-colonel commanding Battalion 1, "Tiger" Division.

### SAIGON AND MEKONG DELTA

DAU TIENG base, 50 km northwest of Saigon, was shelled on the night of July 4 by the P.L.A.F. who controlled the airfield and gun and armoured car parks after a 30 minutes' fierce battle: 200 G.I.s were killed or wounded, 22 aircraft, 25 M-113 amphibious carriers and 7 cannons destroyed or damaged, 37 casemates blown up. The commanders of Battalion 4, Regiment 22, U.S. Division 25 were killed.

(Continued page 7)

AFTER the fall of the two positions of Lang Vay and Hoang Hoa in late January and early February 1968, the Americans held only Ta Con, the main base with an airstrip. Ta Con was named by the Americans "Khe Sanh base" as distinct from Huayng Hoa or "Khe Sanh town."

Hill "689," located at 3 kilometers west-southwest of Ta Con, formed with the adjacent hills "845," "832," "552" and "471" an arc of fortified strongholds defending "Khe Sanh base." It was defended by a thousand Marines with entrenchments made of sand-bags and casemates deep

aircraft showering their bombs on the U.S. positions themselves. Panic-stricken, the survivors jumped out of their entrenchments to escape the blazing hell-pit only to be cut down by the P.L.A.F.

Another and last attempt of the Americans to withdraw from Hill "552" was also thwarted. Having correctly anticipated the enemy's plan, the P.L.A.F. laid an ambush on their retreat route, forcing the enemy to withdraw after sustaining heavy losses. The balance-sheet on July 6 was nearly 200 Marines killed or wounded, including the 78 victims of American bombs.

The fighting reached its peak

the flames dropped by enemy "cannibals," groups of P.L.A.F. supporters succeeded in cutting the barbed wire and defusing the mines, thus making a breach in the enemy defences without his knowing it. Big charges of explosive were placed against the casemates and set off, sending them flying in pieces without their occupants having the vaguest idea of what was going on.

The spearhead groups stormed the resistance pockets and blew up one bunker after another with plastic charges, taking advantage of the disarray of the Americans who found themselves assailed right in their hide-outs. The P.L.A.F. pressed

### BATTLE ACCOUNT FROM KHE SANH

## CAPTURE OF HILL "689"

underground. Tracks had been built to allow the garrison to receive reinforcements from Ta Con or the neighbouring positions on Hills "832" and "552" and vice versa. At the same time, the Americans had worked out detailed firepower plans for the artillery and air force, so that Hill "689" looked perfectly immune to any infantry attack by the P.L.A.F.

However, the attack did come in the final phase of the P.L.A.F. onslaught on the Khe Sanh entrenched camp beginning on July 5. That day, engaging enemy elements that attempted sorties from their positions, the P.L.A.F. put out of action a company of Marines, killing one hundred of them, and bringing down three aircraft.

On the following day, July 6, at 8 a.m., the P.L.A.F. beat back another sally and intercepted enemy reinforcements coming from Hills "845" and "832." During these battles, fighting against great odds, the P.L.A.F. repulsed an enemy column west of Hill "689" and shot down a helicopter; another attempt of the enemy to push towards the hill was foiled at midday with severe losses. Some thirty bodies of dead G.I.'s were abandoned on the ground and were a few moments later "unearthed" by American

on July 7. Besieged by two reinforcement companies, the American garrison on Hill "689" staged a two-pronged sally, one in the northwest direction and the other to the southwest. Supported by artillery, the P.L.A.F. intercepted both prongs and put out of action nearly 100 enemy troops just between 6 and 7 a.m.

Another company was later killed on Hill "689" followed by an American counter-attack. After heavy artillery bombardment, the P.L.A.F. infantry launched an assault, engaging the enemy in a furious hand-to-hand combat. Many brilliant exploits were recorded by the Liberation fighters: one of them was credited with killing or wounding as many as 26 enemy soldiers! The enemy again fell back, leaving on the ground the bodies of about 50 of their mates. An army of helicopters were sent to the scene, supported by intensive strafing and bombing directed against the supposed positions of the P.L.A.F., in an attempt to recover the dead and wounded. The Liberation fighters gave them a sharp rebuff, shooting down three fighter-bombers and two helicopters.

Then, on the night of July 7, they attacked the American entrenchments. In defiance of

up their frontal attacks and completely disrupted the enemy defence. Within less than three-quarters of an hour they seized control of the northwest sector of Hill "689." Fifty two Marines were killed, nine radio transmitters and as many machineguns fell into the hands of the assailants. The surviving Marines fell back to the other sectors of the hill and called for massive artillery and air support. From midnight to 4.30 a.m. on July 8, they launched a series of four counter-attacks in a bid to retake the northwest sector of the hill. But all of them were fought off by the infantrymen of the P.L.A.F. who were efficiently supported by artillery and who killed or wounded another hundred enemy troops in the action.

During July 8, despite continuous raids by American aircraft, the P.L.A.F. overran one after another the remaining positions of the enemy on Hill "689" and brought down a Phantom fighter-bomber. The next day, July 9, at about 10 a.m., the Americans finally broke contact after having lost in five days 600 men put out of action and 10 aircraft and helicopters on this small hill.

(After Gai Phong Press Agency)

P.L.A.F. fighters at Khe Sanh

